

DX LISTENING DIGEST 1-029, March 2, 2001
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<http://www.angelfire.com/ok/worldofradio/Dxldmid.html>

[NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn]

RADIO ENLACE: nuestro primer informe DX de marzo se difunde en las emisiones de viernes y domingos 2 y 4 de marzo en Radio Nederland, alrededor de 10 a 16 minutos despuEs de la hora en el interior del programa.

** AUSTRALIA. Nigel Holmes, Head of Transmission for Radio Australia, was the ARDXC guest at the Wyong Field Day 25 Feb. Nigel this week is testing the programme feed to Darwin in preparation for using the Christian Voice transmitters (ex RA). This is likely occur in the few weeks. The contracts are in (Nigel's briefcase), so we await the last development, i.e. go to air, after signatures! It should also be noted that the target audience response, to the additional relay transmitters has been fantastic, mostly clear reception, with minor exceptions being worked on. Nigel has asked me to send out thanks to those who have sent reports into RA on the signal quality of these transmissions, and for identifying any problem areas, and a new QSL card is expected to be available in about 2 months from now, i.e. first week of May. The Olympic QSLs expect out in about 3 weeks.
(Nigel Holmes via John Wright ARDXC via Cumbre DX March 1 via DXLD)

** AUSTRALIA. RA director Jean-Gabriel Manguy says RA is spending a lot of money on helping partner stations in Indonesia get satellite downlinks in order to relay RA. A new 7-part series starts next weekend, ``On the Record'', focusing on the media in Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia: Fri 1830, Sat 0330, 2230, Sun 2130. And on WRN Sundays from March 11 at 0805 UT. A website for it will not be put up until March 9, including transcripts and audio:
<http://www.abc.net.au/ra/media> (RA Feedback March 3, notes by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA/NETHERLANDS [non]. RA observed again clashing badly with RN in Spanish via Bonaire on 6020 between 1130 and 1225 on Mar 2. Surprising that one of them hasn't gotten off this frequency yet. I would think this also causes problems for Latin American and Pacific

listeners. 73, (Mike Horan, Park Forest, IL, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRIA. The "Intermedia" show had today further details about the new Moosbrunn transmissions from ORF frequency manager Ernst Vranka: AWR will broadcast daily 12 hours through the rotatable antenna towards West Africa, East Africa and the Middle East and further 2 hours for Europe. A satellite link will be used to feed the programs, it is intended to replace it later by soundfile distribution through the Internet.

Furthermore also Trans World Radio will start to transmit a single broadcast in Russian via Moosbrunn. Frequency will be 9745; the broadcasts will last between 15 and full 75 minutes (i.e. the familiar broadcast time chaos) in the 1400-1515 range.

Vranka stated that these arrangements are quite important for ORF because they ensure effective operation of the Moosbrunn station after the dramatic reduction of their own ORF/ROI transmissions.

Some further comments regarding the equipment at the Moosbrunn site: When the new 500 kW transmitters were inaugurated all four 100 kW units remained at the site, two still in regular service, the other two standby for cases of failures and maintenance work. Reportedly new 100 kW transmitters were installed recently to replace the ones from the sixties, but I have no further details at hand about this. Anyway ROI currently uses three transmitters:

- one 500 kW through the day 0400-2400 on 6155 as well as 0000-0100 on 13730 and 0100-0200 on 9870, in all cases running 300 kW only because this is the power limit of the involved antennas (an HQ and a curtain; the latter one can also radiate backwards into the Middle East. This possibility is no longer in use for their own ORF/ROI broadcasts but if I am correct still for RCI);
- the other 500 kW operates with full power through the rotatable antenna, as well-known now with only a few ROI transmissions (0200-0300 7325, 1400-1500 17855, 2200-2300 13730);
- one 100 kW transmitter is on air 0400-1800 on 13730 and 1800-2400 on 5945.

Until AOO a second 100 kW unit was in use at certain times either with the mentioned curtain or a log-periodic. This LP as well as the VM's for 5945/13730 can handle only 100 kW at all; I guess the LP will be used for the new TWR outlet. At least a couple of years ago also the old rhombics, which were in use to serve overseas targets in the pre-300/500-kW-era, were still available but no longer in regular use, just kept as reserve.

It will be interesting to see if the 12 hours of AWR programming for Af and ME indeed overlap with the 2 hours for Europe as the AWR release suggests. If so, only a 100 kW transmitter would be available for 6155 during this period. So I'm rather curious about the new ROI schedule. Regards, (Kai Ludwig, Germany, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** BANGLADESH/U K. BBC man 'linked to coup plot'
MediaGuardian.co.uk -- Luke Harding and Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka
Thursday March 01 2001 The Guardian

The government of Bangladesh has called on the BBC to sack the head of its Bengali service after accusing him of colluding in the bloody 1975 coup which led to the murder of the country's independence leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. ... entire article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4144773,00.html>
(via Bill Westenhaver, PQ, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CAMBODIA [non]. A reminder that another weekly broadcast from V. of Justice, via Taiwan, should be sought Saturday March 3 at 1000. If not on 15455, suggest a quick search for some other frequency, as we still do not know why it failed to appear there last week after its only known broadcast the week before that (gh, DXLD)

** CANADA [non]. TAIWAN 9735U Radio Vancouver International. The transmitter site had a problem with its phone lines on Feb 25 so we didn't broadcast (Keith Perron, RVI, Feb 26 via Hans Johnson, Cumbre DX via DXLD) So try again this Sunday 1200-1400 UT (gh)

** CHECHNYA [non]. Starting from March 1, Radio Chechnya Svobodnaya ceased its short-wave broadcasting. The station switched to local AM/FM relays. In Europe it still can be heard on LW 171 kHz. An AM-transmitter on 1089 kHz now carries Radio Russia, local Radio Krasnodar and the Russian Service of the Voice of Russia (Konstantin Gusev in DX_Bistro, via Sergei Sosedkin, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CONGO DR. Re Bunia 6698: I believe that this one is a clandestine. Bunia Radio, which seems to be the station mentioned above, is controlled by a group opposed to the recognized government in Kinshasa. This group is known as the Congolese Liberation Front (CLF) and is led by Jean-Pierre Bemba, head of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC). MLC has a shortwave radio station as well, Radio LibertÈ, last reported on 15725 in June 2000, but inactive since then. The MLC merged with a breakaway faction of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) to form the CLF. The CLF formed

earlier this year and is aligned with Uganda, which has troops in Bunia as well. Bunia was the scene of a coup against the leader of the RCD last November. It's located in the province of Ituri, which has seen ethnic strife for the last sesquiyear in which thousands have died. Thanks to various media reports for the political details above (Hans Johnson, AZ, Mar 2, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** CONGO DR [non]. Hi Glenn, about the Congo DR item in DXLD 1-028. I can't say that this is not Bunia but:

For a couple of weeks P'yongyang has been putting out several spurs in the range of 6.6 to 6.8 MHz during UT evenings. This is when the 6575 is used. The reported time fits with their French program. If we put word P'yongyang instead of Bunia and Corée instead of Congo in the heard ID, voilà. And that reported time is a bit late for Bunia to be on the air. This is just my opinion. Bye (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, FINLAND, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** COSTA RICA. Joe Bernard at RFPI has been turning on the 15049 transmitter around 1230 UT, until 1600, though sometimes left on all day until the regular schedule of 2200-0400. This is in response to listener requests, including groundwave hearers nearby. Will continue only if membership support level allows. ``Enjoy it while you can.'' (It was on at 1900 for COM and WOR, 2000 for Mailbag March 2.)

Live Wire Independent News concludes its 30-day trial run today. Now it will survey listeners and stations which carried it, then take the results to a community radio conference and try for support to make it permanent. The final show for now aired at 1730, repeats at 2330, UT Sat 0530 on 7450 (Joe Bernard and James Latham, RFPI Mailbag first airing 2000 UT March 2, notes by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CUBA/CUBA [non]. USA/CUBA [non]. Perhaps the Cubans are so busy inadvertently jamming their Chinese comrades (as reported in DXLD 1-027) that they haven't even noticed R. Martí on a new daytime frequency of 21675. I first heard it Feb 23 around 1930 with no jamming present, and have listened at least once every day since then, without hearing so much as a single warble from a jammer. This is not listed in HFCC or the schedule on Martí's website, but I believe it runs between 1400-2200. The jammers sometimes obliterate Martí even this far north and are always audible to some degree, so I wonder if anyone in Habana has noticed this yet. Or perhaps they are just ignoring it due to the fact that jamming an unlisted frequency would be admitting that someone on the island actually listens to the broadcasts? (Mike Horan, Park Forest IL, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

It is an axiom of jammer-combatting that higher frequencies get

through better. This is primarily because of skip distances. A 21-MHz signal could be jammed within Cuba only on groundwave, since even eastern Cuba is not far enough away to put a skywave jammer into Havana, or vice versa. Thus one wonders why most of Martí's frequencies are in the 6-15 MHz bands, even 13 MHz which we doubt old Soviet-era SW radios even cover. We reported 21675 already some weeks back in DXLD (gh, DXLD)

** CYPRUS. Dear Glenn, CyBc Domestic service on 603 and 963 MHz back on the air as from 1 pm 1st March 2001 after being off the air with technical problems. Channel 2 is also back. The overseas service using the BBC site transmitters at Zgyi near Limassol is running as usual over the week ends only; known as CyBc and airing a half a hour programme in Greek only (Costa Constantinides, Cyprus, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** DIEGO GARCIA. 12579.05, AFRN noted running much later than normal switch time at 1500. Pop music program w/man announcer 1535-1559.5 and DOD anmmts 1550-1554. CBS new summary at 1600-1604 and back into pop music program. Nice level at S4 fading to S3 after 1600 but same old ute QRM. Recheck at 1710 and still going but signal reduced to S1-2. Theoretically as So. Hemisphere goes into their Fall, switch times to night frequency should be earlier, not later at Diego Garcia (Bruce Churchill, CA, Feb 26, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

Same: 0227-0255 Finally audible here after months of listening. 0227 Program of late 1960s and early 1970s music (Diana Ross, the Beatles, Bill Withers, Billy Joe Royal, etc.) with male DJ. 0235 Talk about a drawing. Short segment on "arms" (arms race, call to arms, armor, armistice, etc.). Female announcer with "Pacific Report" with news about a military exercise just completed, and a South Korean Air Force F5E accidentally firing a Sidewinder missile due to a short circuit. 0240 Back to music. Signal running almost even with heavy utility interference at 0227 (SINPO 32222), but slowly degrading with heavy fading to nil at 0255. Parallel 12689.5 USB from Key West, SINPO 33333 at 0227, but degrading quickly and gone by 0235. Country 205 here, the first new one in two years! (Jim Evans, TN, Feb 27, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** FINLAND. I keep intending to give slightly more advance notice, but the dates creep up on me. It's the first Saturday of the month, so time for another 24-hour broadcast by Scandinavian Weekend Radio. Their website <http://www.swradio.net> as of Feb 26 shows this timetable, tentatively, here converted to UT. Unlike previous months, the antenna direction is shown as 220 degrees throughout. See the site for a few program titles within the 24 hours:

2200-2400 11690

0000-0600 11720

0600-1200 11690
1200-1600 11720
1600-2000 11690
2000-2200 11720

(Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

We will have some antenna tests toward North-America also this time during first 8 hours (swr mailing list via Andy Cadier, BDXC-UK via DXLD)

** FRANCE. Dear Glen[n], been reading the Digest for some months now since I came Online, I think it is great. Here's my first contribution to the news. Radio France International is announcing that the 1200 and 1400 UT English broadcasts are being cut back to 30 minute transmissions from one hour. This is taking place from next week as far as I can gather. The 1600 UT emission is being left unchanged (i.e. one hour). Regards - (Mick Knapton, Sheffield, England, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST) 1600 was a sesquihour on a couple of its frequencies; still? (gh)

** GEORGIA. I checked for R. Georgia, and found exactly the same situation as in DXLD 1-028 reported by Craig Seager on the other worldside! March 2 at 0629, heterodyne between it on 11805.3 and VOA which went off at 0630 sharp. Fair signal but very rapid flutter; modulation so weak that I could not be sure it was English, though the intonation fit; overpowered by the sound of the flutter itself (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GERMANY. By the way, such echos as you found on WHRA 17650 are familiar here on 13 metre outlets like Wertachtal or Nauen towards Asia. I was really fascinated by this effect when I was new to shortwave (and I'm still fascinated), because it demonstrates that the earth is a ball (I know, not exactly...) and the speed of electromagnetic waves indeed limited. For the same reason also satellite delays are fascinating, especially when no digital equipment is involved. [another possibility is backscatter, but the delay would be even shorter -gh]

Back in 1993 it was common usage during the call-in segment of the DT64 DX show to identify if a caller listens via the Astra satellite or on 1044 kHz. However, one day the first caller contradicted: "No, I'm listening on mediumwave, but why the echo... but I know, there was an extended transmission failure today..." Yes, for quite some time only white noise was transmitted, then DT64 returned but with unprocessed audio. It was immediately clear to me what happened, and later it turned out that indeed the STL from Berlin to Leipzig (at this time still the old analogue microwave link, hence the white noise) was disrupted, so the guys at the MDR radiohouse Leipzig

simply caught DT64 off the Astra satellite and forwarded this signal to the transmitter.

I should add that the "processing" of the mediumwave signal consisted of a cheap limiter/compressor and an equalizer within the "K6" studio at the Berlin Nalepastrafle radiohouse, placed on a table beside the desk and connected by "flying" wires, an unbelievable sight. This equipment was "adjusted" by listening to the 1044 signal, 200 km away from the transmitter and within the local noise of the studio house, so it is certainly no surprise that the results were anything but satisfying. The transmitted signal sounded rather "squeezed". But nobody cared about this because only a few months later it was over and DT64 (now MDR Sputnik) kicked off mediumwave, leaving many listeners behind, including me (Kai Ludwig, Germany, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INDIA. All India Radio- Hyderabad, 4800 kHz, full data "Ahmadabad" card, v/s A. K. Bhatnagar - Director (Frequency Assignments) New Delhi, in 9 weeks, for taped report and IRC (Joe Talbot, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INDONESIA. 3325, RRI Palangkaraya, Feb 26 at 1130: While Central Kalimantan is being afflicted by ethnic violence, this station was heard with family news at this time. Usually this program carries messages about some family members who have died; this edition carries messages informing relatives at obscure places of the time so that they will make the return journey home or requests for money so that they could make the journey. Presumably these are from Madurese immigrants. At 1135 an announcement from the local security committee warns residents against carrying parangs on the streets. The announcement further urges any persons spotting suspicious packages should call 110. If you hear of any plans to disrupt public security, then inform the nearest police officer on duty. Heads of neighbourhood and community committees are also reminded to report all new arrivals within 24 hours. This announcement is repeated frequently. Otherwise, the normal music program is heard (Richard Lam, Singapore, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** IRAN [non]. For Mojahed, their best channel seems to be 88XX. When they escape the jamming, the signal is not too bad at times. On this thread, my further research shows that my suggestion that the Mojahed transmitters would have XX20 as a "home" frequency is not correct. Although they seem to have some preferred channels, there is no clear system (Olle Alm, Feb 26, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** ISLE OF MAN. DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK). From: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/> The Isle of Man being the original home of Radio Caroline North, to remember 3rd March 1968,

Manx Radio are broadcasting an offshore radio special on Saturday 3rd March from 1000 to 1200 GMT. Radio Caroline/RNI's Dave West had a hand in the production of this programme. There will be an internet relay of the programme. They have produced a special Caroline site at <http://www.manxradio.com/Caroline/Welcome.htm> (via Mike Terry, BDXC-UK via DXLD)

** ITALY. March 2 at 1258* tuned in to 17820 just in time to hear a couple of notes, and ID by woman as ``This is Adventist World Radio, the Voice of Hope'' and cut off. This is a low-power transmitter at Forlì little-noticed except by QRP-chasers. Website shows it used only at 1230-1300 in English to NW Europe, but no details of power or azimuth! For that we have to go to HFCC:

17820 1230 1300 27,28 FLI 10 320 1234567 291000 250301 D I AWR AWR 6100 -- that is, 10 kW at 320 degrees -- right at us too. BTW, the final four-digit figure in the HFCC items I might as well delete, just refers to the consecutive entry number in the frequency list (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** KURDISTAN [non]. CLANDESTINE from BULGARIA to IRAQ; 9450, Radio Bopeshawa. Heard singing on at *1459 music and female voice announcing ID in Arabic "Hona Izahat ela al-Amam"; This is Radio Forward. The first half an hour of transmission is in Arabic, mostly commentary and interviews; no news heard. 1534 off for Arabic transmission and on for Kurdish with male voice announcing ID at 1536 "Ira Radio Bopeshawa". Off at 1559*. SINPO/24344 during the first half hour, 23333 during the Kurdish transmission. What is worth mentioning is that the carrier of Radio Slovakia Int. in Deutsch, which signs off at 1458 on the same frequency, this carrier was not off the air and it was used for Radio Bopeshawa! Furthermore Radio Bopeshawa went off the air for about 2-3 minutes, just 1 to 2 minutes after signing on to resume with a dropped signal (from S4 at signing on to S2 when they resume) as if the transmission site had changed its angle and/or direction (Mahmud Fathi, Germany, Feb 26, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** M...XICO. Mexico Mayor Refuses Daylight Time

MEXICO CITY (AP) - What time is it? That soon may be a tough question to answer in Mexico.

Mexico City Mayor AndrÈs Manuel LÙpez Obrador decreed on Monday that the nation's capital would refuse to ``spring forward'' with the rest of the country - or much of it anyway - for daylight savings time in May [sic].

That immediately turned the clock into a constitutional crisis, pitting the leftist mayor against President Vicente Fox of the

conservative National Action Party.

López Obrador, who is a possible presidential candidate in 2006, insisted that Fox "does not have the power to change the hour."

Fox's office issued a release late Monday insisting that it did, saying Lopez Obrador's decree "is unconstitutional."

"Daylight savings [sic throughout] time is greater than our individual preference, in benefit of the greater good, that of Mexico," according to the presidential bulletin.

It said that an earlier mayor from López Obrador's own party had admitted as much in 1999 in grudgingly accepting the time change.

But the prospect for confusion does not stop there: Other states in the country want to adjust the clock to their taste. Some say they will have five months of daylight savings time, some six, some seven.

Federal officials say the measure saves hundreds of millions of dollars in energy costs and helps coordinate Mexico's companies with their main trading partners in the United States.

They are worried that a conflict over the time will baffle tourists flying into Mexico City - as well as workers struggling into the capital by subway and minibus from its sprawling suburbs.

"All the federal government offices and services would have a different hour than the local offices and services," the president's office noted.

López Obrador acted after sponsoring a telephone poll over the weekend in which the majority voted against daylight savings time. A poll by the newspaper Reforma also showed a clear majority disliked the time shift - but also opposed having Mexico City's clocks vary with those of the rest of the country (via Jeff Kadet, March 1, WTFDA via DXLD)

** MONACO [non]. Hi Glenn, regarding TWR English 0645/0655-0820 in A01: Currently this broadcast is aired one hour later on 9870 via the Mt. Angel site in France (rather than Monaco) and on 12070 from Cerrik, Albania, suggesting that indeed both 6045 and 9870 will be used in //. 9870 will certainly remain Mt. Angel, but 49 metres is too low for transmissions from Albania to zone 27 (which is the current target of 12070) at this time, so I guess 6045 will originate from Jlich instead, especially because JUL already use this channel for RNW and various German program producers (Kai Ludwig, Germany, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NAMIBIA. 7215 (Cumbre DX follow up): NBC; Once again, this one was heard here well before the listed *0500. On Feb 24 and 25, I heard a station here running continuous soul and R&B music as early as 0240. I think this was Namibia, but I never heard any announcements. This is the kind of programming they had at this time years ago. Looking back over old Cumbres, it seems that the airing of WRN overnight must have ended after the three month trial ended in early 2000. TWR blocks the channel at 0330-0400 but at 0400 NBC was there in English. I noticed on Feb 26 that while they had an English news program at 0400, it wasn't the "World at Six" that I had heard before. They have English news at 0500 but programming in Afrikaans by 0509 or so. Not heard early after Feb 26. Old Cumbres reveal that Namibia has a fair amount of switching errors; I assume that this is what is going on as this is listed as 3290 until *0500 on 7215. I have tried their website every day, but it is never working for me (Hans Johnson, AZ, Cumbre DX via DXLD) Don't forget possible local time change about now

** NETHERLANDS. 15070, R. Alfa Lima International, March 2 0845-0915, test transmission. Empty carrier @ 0845. A few minutes later mx faded up and then a talk break announcing that this was a test to The Pacific, Australia, and New Zealand. TX power was mentioned as 200 watts. Fair strength, moderate fading with some nice peaks. S10: 243. Received using 300 meter long wire antenna. Noted that signal was barely audible on 19 meter half-wave dipole aimed at Europe. Alfa Lima Int. will be testing on this frequency at various times, over the next few days (David Hodgson, TN, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NEW ZEALAND. Glen[n], Have just browsed to Radio New Zealand's site in Wellington and read that their schedule of frequencies from 18th March to 06th May 2001 will be as follows:

0459-0705 All Pacific 15120
0706-1105 All Pacific 11720
1106-1305 East Timor & NW Pacific 15175
1305-1650 OCCASIONAL - to All Pacific 6095
1651-1850 (MF) NE Pacific / Samoa / Cook Isles 6095
1851-2050 All Pacific 15120
2051-0458 All Pacific 17675

Broadcasts labelled (MF) are on Mondays to Fridays only (DXDave Harries, Bristol, England, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST, who still needs more volunteers to help with his new SW website)

** PER/. 4955: I received a Christmas card and a personal letter in Spanish from Radio Cultural Amauta (Huanta), signed by Mrs. Demetria Montes Sinforoso (Manager), thanking my report but not confirming the data, just informing the time of shortwave transmission: 1000 to 1400

and 2100 to 0200 UT (a little bit different from WRTH and PWBR info). Report was sent to Jr. Cahuide 278, Apartado 24, Huanta, Ayacucho - Per', with post card and 1 US\$. Replied after 269 days. There is a printed e-mail address on the letter: cpdayni@hys.com.pe (Ncio Ribas, Brazil, Cumbre DX March 1 via DXLD)

** RUSSIA. 11840U, Sakhalinsk Radyo, Feb 19 2230-2247, Russian. After network ID for Radyo Rossii, lady gave local ID as shown. "Musika" program - classical, then piano tunes from 1920s. At 2245 man interviewed man. SIO 344, 1 station under (Bill Flynn, OR, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

Same: 1218 to 1400* // 5940 with Radio Rossii programming. Checked on Feb 24, but untraced. Weak on Feb 25 at 1355 (Hans Johnson, AZ, Feb 23-25, ibid.)

I think this one is aimed at the fishing fleet in the northern Pacific area. I reported it several years ago and received a nice and correct QSL letter in Russian directly from the station (Olle Alm, Sweden, Feb 24, ibid.)

R. Sakhalin, an affiliate of Russia's state broadcasting company "TRK Sakhalin", broadcasts local programs 2100-1400 on 531 kHz in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. This program is partially relayed on 11840 usb. On SW, breaking R. Rossii relay, R. Sakhalin appears 2100-2200 & 0300-0400. From late Mar to late Oct broadcasts 1 hour earlier because of daylight shifting. R. Sakhalin mentions only 531 kHz even though it relays [on] SW. I sometimes heard the radio say hello to listeners on Sakhalin & Kuril islands at 0300, the beginning of its SW relay. Kuril, a chain of islands between Japan & Kamchatka, is out of reach for MW from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. So I presume local program on 11840 is for Kuril islanders and fishing boats. A Japanese DXer got a QSL for report written in Russian (Oguma, Feb 25, ibid.)

Sadly, the local program at 0300-0400 is blocked by HCJB in English. 11840 is being used, ex 12015 apparently. I can hear them prior to this time carrying Radio Rossii and then a different program at 0300, but HCJB is too strong for one to get an ID (Hans Johnson, AZ Feb 25, Mar 2, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** SWITZERLAND [non]. I found two websites, <http://www.countrymusic.ch> in French and <http://www.country-music.ch> and...guess what? They seem to be about American country music! Ah-- apparently if one wants to find what SRI called "Swiss country music" one needs to look under "Swiss FOLK music". (Joil Rubin, NY, March 2, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K. Glenn, Since I know you care about these things, I'd like to

point out a spelling mistake in the 70 years of British TV item. The presenter is Alan Whicker, not Wicker :-) 73, (Andy Sennitt, Low Countries, March 2, DXLD)

** U K [non]. Banned organizations - radio implications?
DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK).

Earlier this week, Home Secretary Jack Straw announced the names of 21 organizations which the government proposes banning in the UK under the provisions of the Terrorism Act 2000. The list is below. It is subject to approval by parliament and there is also a right of appeal. As some of these organizations have operated radio stations in the past (or do so now), and as London has become something of a centre for various exile groups to prepare their programmes (if not actually to use UK-based transmitters) the ban might disrupt some clandestine-type radio activities.

For example, the Mujaheddin e Khalq (an Iranian opposition organization) has been quite active in recent years in hiring satellite time and uplinking broadcast material from the UK, in addition to their extensive radio and TV operations in Iraq.

I've pasted the list straight from the FCO web site, and so the spellings and/or translation of the names of some of the groups may be slightly different to those that appear elsewhere, e.g. in press reports. This list is in addition to the various Irish organizations that are already banned in the UK under the provisions of the Act.

Al-Qa'ida
Egyptian Islamic Jihad
Al-Gama'at al-Islamiya
Armed Islamic Group (Groupe Islamique Armée) (GIA)
Salafist Group for Call and Combat (Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat) (GSPC)
Babbar Khalsa
International Sikh Youth Federation
Harakat Mujahideen
Jaish e Mohammed
Lashkar e Tayyaba
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
Hizballah External Security Organisation
Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades
Palestinian Islamic Jihad - Shaqaqi
Abu Nidal Organisation
Islamic Army of Aden
Mujaheddin e Khalq
Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan) (PKK)
Revolutionary Peoples' Liberation Party - Front (Devrimci Halk

Kurtulus Partisi - Cephesi) (DHKP-C)
Basque Homeland and Liberty (Euskadi ta Askatasuna) (ETA)
17 November Revolutionary Organisation (N17)

(Chris Greenway, March 2, BDXC-UK via DXLD)

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** U S A. Re: The Connection's Over As We Knew It

Chet, I think that this shows where the *real* priorities lie in public radio: money and ownership. I think WBUR is to blame mostly for this one, as they sound like the pompous ass, arrogant station that says, "Since we carry things like 'Car Talk,' we should do whatever we want." THEY offered Lydon the salary of up to \$300,000 per year, then have the gall to say, "Well, he asked for that much." That's bullshit! I think Lydon wanted part ownership so that he could prevent the show, which by going into syndication has pretty much ended up in his hands, from being dumbed-down and neutralized by WBUR management, and, more importantly, since they've been slowly turning to more commercialism, NPR.

I'd listen to that show on WSUI during the summer and I always enjoyed Lydon's intelligence and his willingness to talk about a variety of issues. Some people on his Internet forum keep comparing him to Terry Gross. Well, the only things the two shows have in common are that they're on NPR and they interview people. Gross focuses on more of the people involved with the arts. Lydon did much more. To compare the two like that is simply unfair to both shows.

I think it's WBUR that needs to think about controlling its ego and using its money more wisely. I'd also like to see not only WBUR, but all public radio stations program to ALL people, not just the yuppies who want to hear "All Things Considered" as they drive home from work in their Mercedes and their BMWs and give the station loads of money. Given the ratings-driven nature of "public" radio, however, I don't see that happening (Dave Vollenweider, IA, March 2, via Chet Copeland, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I had listened to only a few Connections, but was impressed with what I heard. How many two-hour talk-shows can one digest every day, anyway? Besides, there was always the archive, where one later, any time, could pick topics or guests that looked promising. Let's hope the sesquiyear audio archive remains accessible from WBUR despite its disdain for Lydon: <http://www.theconnection.org/archive/> That should tide us over until Lydon and company come back before long via a more

friendly outlet, no doubt under some other title. Hey, they should spell it with an X! (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Connection' duo, WBUR disconnect permanently
By Mark Jurkowitz, Boston Globe, 3/2/2001

Ending a bitter two-week standoff marked by harsh words and unyielding positions, WBUR-FM parted ways with "Connection" host Christopher Lydon and senior producer Mary McGrath yesterday, signaling the end of the popular six-year-old call-in show - at least as listeners have come to know it. The key sticking point appeared to be Lydon and McGrath's desire for ownership of "The Connection" and a share of future growth in the revenue the program generates. A statement released by the station said, "With great regret, WBUR today announces that 'The Connection' host Christopher Lydon and Senior Producer Mary McGrath have informed WBUR that they are leaving their employment to pursue careers in a for-profit, independent production company." [Read entire article:]

http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/061/nation/_Connection_duo_WBUR_disconnect_permanently.shtml

Other sites (Now HTML; Under his picture, earlier today, it said: "Christopher Lydon Has Left The Building." Later: "Christopher Lydon's Official Website." <http://www.christopherlydon.org/> (Esp. the Forums) <http://www.theconnection.org/> (Chet Copeland/NYC, DXLD)

Public Radio Host Is Leaving in Dispute March 2, 2001
By THE NEW YORK TIMES

After two weeks of public wrangling, Christopher Lydon, the host of "The Connection", a public radio program with 400,000 listeners around the country, parted ways with WBUR, the Boston radio station that owns the program. Read entire article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/02/national/02NPR.html?ex=984552165&ei=1&en=f611eb293ba22c11>

(via Bill Westenhaver, PQ, DXLD)

This didn't take long: KUOW Seattle is dropping The Connection from its schedule. Friday 3/2 is its last day. A rerun of TOTN will take its place, weeknights at 11 p.m.-1 a.m. PT. Christopher Lydon's new web site <http://www.christopherlydon.org/> has expanded greatly since yesterday, with a forum section that already has over 120 messages. Interesting copyright statement: "(C) 2001 L&M Productions" -- an indicator of their intended direction (Kevin Kelly, Arlington MA, PublicRadioFan.com DXLD)

In WBUR's defence, their website presents both sides of the dispute. I just listened to a 9-minute piece about it. Someone "impartial" from Harvard concluded that 60-year-old Lydon had made a big mistake,

should have taken the big salary and stayed at WBUR under their terms
(gh, DXLD)

** U S A ? Recently, a new station has popped up on the air. A station reading numbers in, get this, Roman numerals. It's doubtful the station is an actual numbers station, but most likely a pirate spoof. It's only been logged on 6950 and 6955, the two currently most popular pirate frequencies. The transmissions start out with a callup of III X VI which is repeated for several minutes, then ten chimes which sound like they're coming from either a church or grandfather clock, then five figure groups of Roman numerals.

When this station was first heard, it was thought that it was repeating 555 X 35 and the groups consisting of variations of 5, X, and 3. But it's apparent that what sounded like 5, X and 3 is actually I, X and V. Especially after pirate DXers were clued in by someone in the FRN chat room.

Could this be long-lost communications between Spartacus and Rome, bouncing around space for thousands of years, before the signal found its way back to earth? I'm sure if the Romans had numbers stations, it would probably sound just like this station (Tom Sevart, KS, Covert Comms, The Monthly A*C*E, March via DXLD) #####